

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 03596 071159Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 /026 W

-----120044 071201Z /46

O 071126Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8083

INFO SECDEF WASHDC OASD/ISA

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3596

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SU, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF NEW CHIEF OF STAFF TO U.S.

1. IN SEPTTEL DATT REPORTS DESIRE OF NEW SUDANESE ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF LTD ABD AL-MAJID HAMID KHALIL TO QUOTE ACCEPT UNQUOTE OUR INVITATION FOR SUDANESE GOS TO VISIT U.S. THIS YEAR. MAJID INDICATED THAT NIMEIRI HAS URGED HIM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OUR OFFER. AS REPORTED IN DATT MESSAGE, WE HAVE ADVISED MAJID THAT VISIT WOULD HAVE TO OCCUR IN SEPTEMBER AND HE IN TURN HAS TOLD US HE CANNOT LEAVE BEFORE OCTOBER.

2. I WISH TO URGE AGENCIES INVOLVED TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO SEE IF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE TO ACCOMMODATE MAJID'S TIMING PROBLEM. IF IT REALLY IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ALTER SEPTEMBER TIME FRAME FOR VISIT, I HOPE WE CAN AT LEAST MAKE FAIRLY FIRM INVITATION FOR NEAR FUTURE. MAJID IS SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT SUDANGOV MILITARY OFFICER. WITH RETIREMENT OF BOTH MINDEF AND COS, MAJID RANKS SECOND ONLY TO NIMEIRI IN MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND. IN CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR, HE IS DYNAMIC LEADER WHO HAS PLAYED CENTRAL ROLE IN DEVELOP-
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MENT U.S.-SUDAN MILITARY RELATIONS AND LIKELY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. MOREOVER, HE IS STRONGLY PRO-AMERICAN AND ANTI-SOVIET.

3. I AM FULLY AWARE OF PROBLEMS THAT HAVE ARISEN DUE TO RECENT CHANGES WITHIN SUDANESE MILITARY, AND I DO NOT WISH TO DRAW BLOOD FROM STONE. HOWEVER, GIVEN DECISION

TO INVITE COS WHICH HAD BEEN CONVEYED, BELIEVE IF WE CAN
COME BACK WITH SOMETHING POSITIVE, IT WILL BE MOST HELPFUL
TO CONTINUED EVOLUTION BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONSHIP.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: MILI, SU, US
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